

## About Plays and Players

By BIDE DUDLEY

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President of the American Federation of Labor, talked to 1,500 members of the Actors' Equity Association at the Republic Theatre yesterday and told them that the parent labor body would be with them in any battle they might have to put up for their rights. He said the A. F. of L. always wanted its affiliated members to be right, but he assured his hearers that, even were the Equity to err, the parent body would hardly turn against it. And, when Mr. Gompers gave out his intimations to this effect, he said what has been aptly termed a mouthful.

The Equity alone might be licked in a battle, but teamed up with the union musicians, stagehands, teamsters and others whose work has to do with the theatrical business, and supported morally by the rest of the 6,000,000 members of union labor in America, the ladies of the organization might safely go ahead homestitching the "We Have Met the Enemy and He is Ours" banners. What will be the attitude of the Equity in the matter of the Equity shop, when the present agreement with the Producing Managers' Association expires in 1921, we cannot say, but if you'll give us three guesses we'll hand you back two unused.

President John Emerson, of the Equity, spoke first at the meeting. He dwelt on the alleged refusal of the members of the English cast of "Pins and Needles" to affiliate with his organization. He hinted that there might be a plan on foot through which certain managers hoped to bring enough unorganized actors to America from England and other countries to oppose the Equity advantageously. Mr. Gompers said he had seen Mr. De Courville and felt certain the English producer, when he returned to England, would be a fine press agent for the Equity. He expressed the opinion that there was no plan, such as Mr. Emerson hinted at, and added that should one come to light he would be against it.

Other speakers were Hugh Payne, State organizer of the A. F. of L.; Dr. Wolf Hopper, Louis Calvert and Frank Gilmore, Executive Secretary of the Equity.

A. H. Woods permitted the Equity to hold the meeting in his theatre free of cost and was the recipient of numerous verbal bouquets as a result. No definite action was taken in any matter, the meeting being rather one of propaganda. Mr. Gompers told several stories and showed a sense of humor in other ways during his talk. No effort was made, however, by any vaudeville scouts to sign him up for the two-day.

### OPENING POSTPONED.

The opening of the new musical comedy, "For Goodness Sake," announced for tonight at the Lyric Theatre, has been postponed until tomorrow night.

### NUTT'S DOPE.

Jefferson Shrewsbury Nutt, special correspondent of this column, has found it expedient to spend the winter with his relatives, the Boners, in Bogash, O., but he is ever on the job. Just the same. A note from him received to-day says:

"Dear Dud—I and the wife see by the papers that President Harding has refused to let the soldiers' parade pass with a bonus at this time unless they put a tax on sailing ships. Personally, we don't think this sailing tax is right, but we believe we could get a good story out of it by running down to Washington. My cousin, Asa Bone, was once a sailor, so I could interview the President on the subject of sails as an expert. The first thing I would probably say would be, 'President, port your helm in the fo' castle.' That would get a laugh from him and I'd be in right afterwards. The wife could talk to some of the sailors' wives and get the story from the domestic angle. Together we could cover the whole tale, and wow, what a smash it would be for you! Wire us at once, if we're to get it, and send us \$11. The local singing society put on 'The Can-Can' at the theatre last night and Booney Peters, the low-down, kept yelling 'Bring on de dames' until Esther's father gave him the boot. Much excitement but could learn nothing!—Jeff."

### TRIBUTE TO MRS. SPEYER.

An entertainment will be held at the Shubert Theatre Sunday, March 5, as a tribute to the memory of the late Mrs. James Speyer, who often helped the Actors' Fund. The proceeds will be devoted to charities she assisted. Announced for the programme are Miss Emma Calve, Mrs. Frances Alda, Elsie Janis, Crystal Hume, Julia Arthur, Viola Allen Duryea, Elsie Ferguson, Blanche Bates, Nora Hayes, Elsie De Wolfe, Marie Dore and Lenore Ulric. Elizabeth Marbury heads the committee in charge.

### DOLLARS FOR DEMPSEY.

It is understood Jack Dempsey, when he appears at the Hippodrome for his engagement beginning Feb. 27, will receive the largest salary ever paid any individual attraction at the big playhouse and, in addition, a percentage of the gross receipts, which will feature physical training in his act.

### STANHOPE RETURNS.

Frederick Stanhope arrived from England yesterday. He brought with him several plays he will produce here. While in London he produced "The Wrong Number," which was known here as "On the Hiring Line."

### BALLET CLASS MEETS.

The first regular class of New York ballet students, organized by the Keith vaudeville interests, is meeting to-day at the Coliseum Theatre, Broadway and 11st Street. This step has been taken at the instance of F. F. Albee to stimulate interest in an American ballet. Similar classes have been

## JOE'S CAR



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## THE BIG LITTLE FAMILY



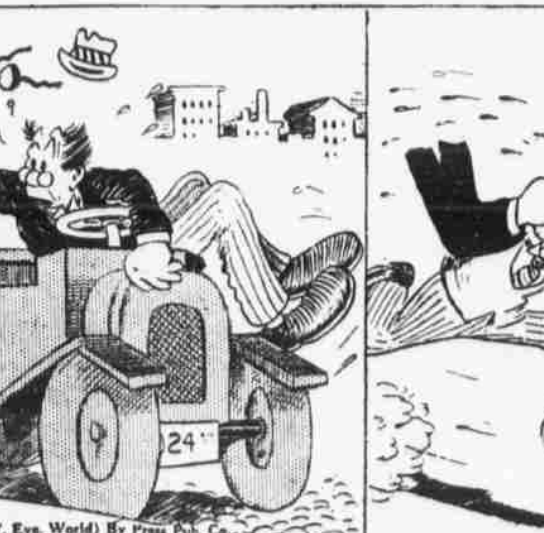
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## LITTLE MARY MIXUP



## KATINKA



## RHYMED THRILLS

We have decided to inaugurate a contest for the best rhyme on "My greatest thrill." The prize will be a copy of the song, "You May Hold Me Tight If You'll Get Me Tight," from "The Midnight Cole." Tess of Fort Lee sends us the first thrill. Get yours in early and have your friends do the same. Tess tells her story as follows:

The greatest thrill I ever knew  
Was when my sweetie, fond and true,  
Declared his love would never dim,  
And asked me if I'd marry him.  
He'd been so mean to me, by gum!  
That I was feeling pretty plum.  
'Twas when I yelled: "I never will,"  
That I experienced the thrill.

Carle Carlton thinks Beulah Benson of "Tangerine" is a second Rosa Ponselle.

Julia Sanderson is telling the ladies at the Baltimore to-day how to become beautiful.

Alice Ridnor of "The Midnight Rounders" has been engaged for the next "Passing Show" by the Messrs. Shubert.

Neyna McMein has finished a painting of Lenore Ulric as Kiki.

Mack Hillard is to install Sunday night concerts at the Selwyn Theatre beginning next Sunday, when he will have a jazz bill.

Harland Dixon of "Good Mornings, Dearie," read "The Plough Boy of

the Western World" last week and immediately bought a farm up-State.

Ernesta Lancelotti will appear as Eve in "Back to Methuselah." Guess we'll have to go.

Marcus Loew will open his new State Theatre, Boston, soon. He will take some movie stars to the bean centre.

Barney Bernard is center Keith vaudeville in a sketch called "The Birthday," by George V. Hobart.

Kilbourne Gordon, producer of "The Cat and the Canary," is so used

to the Western World, that he is so used

applied psychology in selecting future plays.

Polly Anna, a Hungarian dancer, will make her debut in vaudeville soon and then go on tour.

Lella Bennett and Mercita Edmond of "The First Year" say they intend to have a female minstrel show some day.

Leon Errol will appear as George Washington in "The Midnight Frolic" Wednesday night. He was looking for a cherry tree yesterday.

The Junior Society of Temple Emanuel will present a musical show called "Leave It to Me," at the Waldorf, commencing April 6.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

You can get a shine for a nickel now in Topeka, Kan. People who care to run out there can save from 5 to 10 cents each.

FOOLISHMENT.

In a basket one day Charley Lee Took a kitten to Mary McGee.

Said she to the lad:

"You make me so glad, I see you've a feline for me."

FROM THE CHESTNUT TREE.

"We reached Chicago in a box car and my brother went uptown to get some cigars."

"Did he get any?"

"Sure! A handful! Some of them were almost whole."

NO USE FOR IT.

PAT walked into a cigar store. After getting into the telephone booth he called a wrong number. As there was no such number the switch attendant did not answer him. Pat shouted again, but received no answer.

The girl in the store opened the door and told him to shout a little louder, which he did, but still no answer.

Again she said he would be required to speak louder.

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"Begorra, if I could shout any louder I wouldn't use your bloomin' old-telephone at all!"—Tu-Bits.

MADE IT WORSE.

In a civil suit being tried in an Iowa court the Judge decided a contested point against a young lawyer, whereupon the latter lost his head.

"Your Honor," he said, in a trembling voice, facing the Court, "I am amazed."

Instantly the young lawyer's partner, who happened to be in the courtroom, sprang to his feet.

"Your Honor," he interposed, "I want to apologize for the hasty remark of my young partner. By the time he is as old as I am he will not be amazed by anything your Honor does."

OF COURSE, MISS INNOCENCE.

"I looked to her like a big idea. She had discovered one of those elusive, seductive, tantalizing little tops, so popular now, in which the mere spinning of it gives one opportunity to take one, take all, pay three, &c. Being an Indianapolis school teacher, she immediately noted it as a novelty."

"Such a clever little thing," she said to the clerk. "I've never seen a top like it before. What are they for?"

"Well, they're a sort of diversion," the saleswoman explained. "Many people use them financially."

"Oh yes, of course, of course. How many of them have you? I was just thinking they would be splendid in teaching the children combinations in numbers—nice for arithmetic, as it were!"—Indianapolis News.

## His Twin Six!!!

## Screenings

By DON ALLEN

### WRONG SYSTEM.

The chief indoor sport along Broadway these days seems to be the asking of the time-worn question, "What's the matter with the movies?" And although those intimately connected with the jumping opera nearly always hop to its defense, they claim there is nothing the matter with the movies.

During a catch-it-and-run luncheon at the Astor Saturday we heard what we consider as good an explanation of what the real trouble is with the movies as any we have heard advanced.

It has all to do with the star system, yet, peculiarly, it has nothing to do with the movie stars themselves.

Said a chap who really knows movies: "The star system now in vogue is the real trouble with the motion pictures."

"What's the matter with the stars?" we asked.

"Nothing," he replied. "Absolutely nothing. But the trouble is that Fox is starring Fox and Goldwyn is starring Goldwyn and Ince is starring Ince and De Mille is starring De Mille—and none of them ever appear on the screen. But don't use my name," he cautioned. "I'd lose my nice fat job in a jiffy."

"Why," he replied, gazing all about, "I'm helping to star So-and-So." And he named one of the biggest magnates in moviedom.

### OPPOSITION.

Mary Pickford and Friend Husband haven't spoiled many movies in their long career, but they certainly ruined one Friday night. Here's the low-down:

A thousand or more prospective movie patrons had gathered in front of a popular Broadway cinema, awaiting the opening of the box office. Many were waving bills to their hands in anticipation that the sight of real money would cause the house manager to throw open the gates earlier.

Looking over the mass formation the manager said, "Aw, let 'em wait!" It was just about at this moment that Doug Fairbanks and his charming wife strolled by. A policeman called to help handle the crowd, in a friendly way, and the manager, who had been waiting for a fellow cop, "There goes Doug and Mary!"

That was the signal. The mass formation broke and every last one of them started trailing the stars. They didn't "wait," as the manager had prophesied and, like Jeffries' beaten champion, they didn't come back.

There were a lot of empty seats inside, too, when the manager finally consented to throw open the doors.

### REAL THRILLS.

To all of us who used to wallow around in the pages of "Nick Carter" this will come as a joy tiding.

Nick Carter, famous of all famous sleuths, and who dandied Sherlock Holmes, Allen Pinkerton and a few other famous dicks on his paternal knee, is going back into the movies.

With this announcement from John J. Glavey, President of the Glavey Productions, we can see William S. Hart, Harry Carey, Tom Mix and other "two-gun" movie actors trombling so hard their laurels fall right off their brows.

If there was ever a character that would fit exactly onto the screen it was this same "Nick Carter." The adventures of "Nick" have been read by 50,000,000 and all of them, if they live, will rejoice when they learn they will be able to at last see "Nick" as well as read him.

### STILLS.

Crittenden Marriott's novel, "The Isle of Dead Ships," is to be pictured by Hope Hampton.

Speaking of husbands, "Topics of the Day" features "Your husband arrested; why don't you bail him out?" "If it's my husband you couldn't pump him out." And it's Prohibition, too.

Films, only a short while ago in the infancy, have arrived, according to a new title, at "The Follish Age."

Niles Welch just gave his wife a frame house in honor of their wedding.

The "Soul Saver" is not the picture life of a shoemaker.

"Eat all your dinner and you'll grow to be a big man," advised Mrs. Sweet Trues to her young son. "Will he be big and tall like daddy?" asked the son. And Ernie, the dad, left the breakfast table.

Major Jack Allen, filmer of wild animals, says he wants to open a sanatorium. Why not call it a sanatorium and charge the tired business men money?

"Don't count your nickels before they are matched!" advises Aesop's Film Fables.

Twain horses are stars in "Val of Paradise," Paramount's latest. They are real equine twins, too.

Harry Levy, President of the National Non-Theatrical Corporation, is in Chicago attending the National Educational Association's convention there. If those two titles had been much longer we couldn't have used this squib.

"How many fish have you caught?" some one asked Bert Lytell. "When I catch this one," answered Bert, "and eleven more I'll have an even dozen."

Viola Dana has been elected a member of the Disabled War Veterans. Why, Viola, we never knew you were even half-shot.

Blue Murray says she will play Juliet in a stage revival of "Romeo and Juliet." Take a tip, Mac, Juliet never dressed the Murray way.

Gareth Hughes, headed for his friend's house, lost the address. "Let ask a policeman," suggested a friend. "He's not that kind of a movie actor!" silenced Gareth.

## The Day's Good Stories

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### ACCEPTED AS PRAISE.

EILEEN thought herself possessed of more than average ability. Taking advantage of the scarcity of labor of all sorts, she decided